



FLOWERING PLANTS for the home or office

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Flowering plants can be enjoyed throughout the year, but the most popular "gift" plants are associated with Christmas, Valentine's Day, Easter, Mother's Day and various other holidays.

Most flowering plants can provide long lasting beauty in the home or office if some basics are followed in selection and care.

Selection

Generally look for plants with only one half to three fourths of their flowers fully open. This extends the blooming period for maximum enjoyment.

Avoid plants with grey, moldy or water soaked flowers. This is generally a symptom of a disease called Botrytis and causes flowers to drop prematurely.

Do not select dry or wilted plants. Look for ones which have been watered and well cared for.

Do not let the flowers be your sole guide to selection. Be sure plants have strong, healthy stems and lustrous green foliage. This is one of the best signs of freshness in flowering plants.

Care

Remove or punch holes through any decorative foil or wrapping on the pot. Although these may be attractive, foil wrappings impede drainage and hold water. This may cause roots to rot and plants to deteriorate quickly.

Keep plants out of drafts. Excessively hot, dry air from heating ducts or appliances reduces the plant's keeping quality. Also avoid cold drafts. Most flowering plants cannot tolerate cold or rapid temperature changes.

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Keep the plant where temperatures remain above 60° F. Temperatures between 65° and 70° are ideal.

Place the plant in good light but not direct sun.

Most flowering plants use a moderate amount of water and should be checked daily. Keep the soil moist but do not overwater. When watering allow some water to run out of the bottom of the pot.

For more specific information on many commonly grown flowering plants, see the plant selection table below.

Name	Mature size	Light level	Water
African violets (Saintpaulia species)	pot, hanging plant	very high	moist
Begonia rex	pot, hanging plant	high	moist
Begonias, other than metallica and rex	pot plant	very high	moist
Bromeliads many species	pot, hanging plant	medium	moist
Bougainvillea (Bougainvillea glabra)	pot, hanging plant	very high	dry
Cape primrose (Streptocarpus species)	pot plant	high	moist
Chenille plant (Calypha hispida)	pot plant	high	moist
Christmas cactus (Schlumbergea bridgesii)	pot, hanging plant	high	moist- in growth
Christmas pepper (Capsicum annum)	pot, hanging plant	high	moist
Chrysanthemum (Chrysanthemum morifolium)	pot plant	very high	moist
Cineraria (Senecio cruentus)	pot plant	high	moist
Coleus	pot, hanging plant	very high	wet
Crossandra infundibuliformis	pot plant	medium	moist
Crown of thorns (Euphorbia mili [splendens])	pot plant	high	dry

Name	Mature size	Light level	Water
Easter cactus (Rhipsalidopsis gaertneri)	pot, hanging plant	high	moist- in growth
Exacum affine	pot, hanging plant	medium	moist
Fairy primrose (Primula malacoides)	pot plant	medium	moist
Fancy-leaved caladium (Caladium)	pot plant	high	moist-dry (dormant)
Flame violet (Episcia)	pot, hanging, terrarium plant	medium	moist
Fuchsia	pot, hanging plant	very high	moist
Gardenia (Gardenia jasminoides)	pot plant	very high	moist
German primrose (Primula obconica)	pot plant	high	moist
Geranium (Pelargonium species)	pot, hanging plant	very high	dry
Gloxinia (Sinningia species)	pot, hanging plant	very high	wet
Jerusalem cherry (Solanum pseudo-capsicum)	pot, hanging plant	high	dry
Kalanchoe species	pot, hanging plant	high	dry
Lipstick plant (Aeschynanthus javanicus)	pot, hanging, terrarium plant	medium	moist
Miniature rose (Rosa chinensis var. minima)	pot plant	very high	wet
Orchid cactus Epiphyllum hybrids	pot, hanging plant	high	moist-growth dry-winter
Orchids many species	pot, hanging plant	very high	moist/dry
Periwinkle (Vinca major var. variegata)	pot, hanging plant	high	moist
Persicum or other species Cyclamen species	pot plant	high	moist-dry (dormant)

Name	Mature size	Light level	Water
Poinsettia (<i>Euphorbia pulcherrima</i>)	pot plant	very high	dry
Rose of China (<i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i>)	pot plant	very high	moist
Shrimp plant (<i>Beloperone guttata</i>)	pot, hanging plant	high	dry
Thanksgiving cactus (<i>Zygocactus truncatus</i>)	pot, hanging plant	high	moist-growth dry-winter
Trailing watermelon begonia (<i>Pellionia daveauana</i>)	pot, hanging, terrarium plant	medium	moist
Zebra plant (<i>Aphelandra squarrosa</i>)	pot, terrarium plant	high	moist

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